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A LETTER

Sent by His

HIGHNESS

THE

Bilhop & Prince of MVNSTER

TO THE

LORDS

THE

STATES GENERAL

OF THE

UNITED NETHERLANDS.

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The Copy of a Letter ſent by His Highneſs the Biſhop of *MUNSTER*, to the LORDS the States General of the United *NETHERLANDS*.

Our Friendly Service, and whatſoever elſe of Love and Kindneſs is in Our Power, High and Mighty Lords, Our ſingularly Beloved Friends and Neighbours.

YOur High and Mighty Lordſhips, do, without doubt, very well remember, how above a year ſince, upon the 29 of *April*, You were pleaſed to Write unto Us by a Courier, and how at that time We returned You a Friendly and ſatisfactory Anſwer. VVe did indeed hope that

Your unkind Designs and Resolutions, whereof *You* then gave Us notice, would have been prevented by Our fair Applications to *You*, and by the evidence of those Reasons We represented to *You*, how that the differences in *East-Friseland*, had not onely been decided first at *Aurich*, and afterward at the Diet of *Ratisbone*, where the Prince Elector of *Mentz* and the Bishop of *Strasburg* interposed as Mediators, but that We also out of Love to the Publique Peace, and a desire to give You all possible satisfaction, though the thing did not properly concern Your High and Mighty Lordships, had by the Dean of Our Cathedral whom We sent to Treat with Your Deputies, cleared up all Mistakes, and had made good within the time limited by the Decree, all that was required on Our Part; so that no man, unless possessed with Passion and Prejudice could find any thing to blame in Our Proceedings.

Which is so manifest, that even the Lords of the Province of *Holland* in their late Disputes

ſputes with the Province of *Weſt-Friſeland*, about the Supply's to be ſent againſt the King of *England*, have confeſſed that on Our ſide there had not been the leaſt Formality omitted. But yet We find and muſt to Our ſorrow profeſs, that things are fallen out contrary to Our Expectation, and that therefore We are Neceſſitated to ſeek for Reparation, and Security for the future, for all the Affronts and Injuries We have received from You. To this end We are reſolved to make Our Recourſe to Almighty God, and withal to make Uſe of thoſe Aſſiſtances which His Providence hath afforded Us from other Princes with whom we have Alliance, and for that purpoſe, to give Order for ſuch Preparatives as are ſuitable to the preſent Occaſion.

And we have been hereunto moved, among many other weighty and juſt Reaſons, principally by this one, That your High and Mighty Lordſhips, though You have no Right to med-

dle with the *Judicature* or *Commissions of Execution* belonging to the Roman Empire, or to undertake the protection of any Subject or Member of the Empire, against the Imperial *Res Judicata* and *Denunciation* of the *Commission of Execution*, or to support them against the Process *Sub clausulis paratæ Executionis*, and *Constituti possessorii Pacta & Transactiones* after they have been truly consented to by both Parties, did nevertheless upon pretext of the *Prince* of *East-Friselands* Interest, (though he had before that exhibited his pretended Grievances to the Emperour and Diet at *Ratisbone*, where they had been with the Approbation of his Father in Law the Duke of *Wirtemberg* redressed as far as there was Reason) presume to assault the Emperour and Roman Empire, but more especially the Circle of *Westphalia*, and in it Us your Neighbours; And contrary to the Peace of *Munster*, and the express League made there with other Crowns and Potentates, to fall into the Country with an Army, and take *Your* March through

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it for some Leagues together, to make Ship-bridges over the Rivers, in an hostile manner to require Provision and Quarters, to Rifle the Houses of the Nobility, to Plunder the Country People of all they had, to use Violence to their Persons by Torturing them, and in a most Cruel and Barbarous manner Roasting them at the Fire; To ruine dwelling Houses and Barns, and set many of them on Fire; Yea and not to spare God Himself, but to break open Churches, and Steal whatsoever You found there, and like Turks or Infidels, to Abuse and Prophane whatsoever was Sacred in them: And lastly, to Besiege Our Men, whom We had in the Name of His Imperial Majesty put into the *Eyler-Sconce*, which without all Dispute is Situate within the Limits and Bounds of the Roman Empire, to bring down Canon against it, and after several People in it, were Killed and Wounded, to Force the rest to a Surrender, and place a Garrison of Your Own in it, which in Despite

ſpite of the Roman Empire and German Nation You maintain there to this very Day.

And all this was done by You before one Penny was payd of that Debt of which payment was ſeemed to be Profered, though indeed it cannot be ſaid that ever it was Truly Profered, ſeeing the Profer was not made in ready Mony. Nor can that Principle of the Law, *Oblatione pignus ſolvi*, ſerve to any purpoſe in this Fact, for the Profer there intended ought not to be Verbal, but Real. But beſides (which Your High and Mighty Lordſhips in Your Own Letter are not able to deny) We told You in a Memorial Dated the 18 of *February*, That the Deciſion of this Buſineſs did belong to His Imperial Majeſty and His Council, and not to You, who had nothing to do with it, which is an undoubted Truth. Nor does it at all help You, to ſay that You followed this Buſineſs at *Ratisbone*, all the Term of the firſt Payment, and part

part of the ſecond; That being altogether needleſs, ſeeing the Matter had been brought to a new Accommodation at *Ratisbone*, and a Settlement made in it, much more to the Settlement and Advantage of *Eaſt-Friſeland*. It is true indeed, that You might Lawfully *Re Integra* have reſumed Your Mony, and for ſuch Inconſiderable Damage as You might have ſuſtained, have in a Legal way Demanded Reparation, but not Imploy Your Mony in Attempts of ſo Dangerous Conſequence to the Roman Empire and German Nation.

The Inhabitants of *Eaſt-Friſeland*, as well as their Neighbours do very well know that they never were in the leaſt Oppreſt by Us, but that on the other ſide They have from time to time, been brought into a Slaviſh ſubjection by Your High and Mighty Lordſhips, as well by Your bringing upon Them heretofore the *Mansfieldiſh*, and ſince that the *Heſſiſh* Armies, and Your Seizing of the Caſtle of *Leerort*, as by Your continual Fomenting of

Dissention between the Princes and States of the Country, and Your putting a Garrison into the City of *Embden* : so that it is manifest Your High and Mighty Lordships did not so much regard the Benefit of the Prince of *East-Friseland* as Your Own Interest, and that the Protection of *East-Friseland* was but a meer Pretence which You sought, to declare Your Enmity against the Roman Empire, and especially against Us, and that in so High a Degree as hath not been heard of since the General Peace concluded at *Munster*.

For all these Violations of the Peace, Actions of Hostility and Invasions We have not hitherto received any Reparation or Satisfaction, but have been Forced to pass them all by; especially at that time when in Compliance with the Unanimous Resolution of the Empire, We were to March with our Forces to assist the Emperour against the common Enemy the Turk. And We cannot but take

take notice, how that contrary to the Reſpect and Civility uſed among all Princes; You did Write very Contemptibly and Diſhonourably of Us to His Imperial Majeſty, and as if that had not been enough, did to Our greater diſgrace and Infamy, cauſe your Letter to be publiquely Printed before it could be delivered to Him. Nor muſt it be omitted, how in the year 1616 You did againſt all Right, invade Our Territory of *Borkeloo*, with other places belonging to Us, of which You do ſtill moſt injuriouſly retain the poſſeſſion: Neither did *You* think it enough to have made all theſe Invaſions upon Us, but as if *You* had reſolved never to lay down *Your* pernicious Deſigns againſt Us, *You* did Threaten in a Letter dated at the *Hague*, *June* 19, 1664. to put in Execution the Sentence of *Arnheim*, which was paſſed though *Nulliter & Incompetenter* in the years 1613, 1615, and 1622, in the Cauſe of *Borkeloo*, (which had before received a juſt Deciſion at *Spire*,) and by this pretence, to exact from Us the ſumme

of Fifteen hundred thousand Guilders, to Our utter Ruine and Destruction, if *You* had not been prevented in your Designe by the VVar with *England*.

VVe will at this time forbear to mention other innumerable Injuries and VVrongs which *You* have done Us, and which VVe shall hereafter make known to the VVorld, as in particular *Your* animating our City of *Munster* against Us, and endeavouring to seduce it, by which *You* have plunged Our whole Country into a Debt of some Millions, and that City into a Debt of some Tonns of Gold, with whom also, as VVe are assuredly informed, *You* still continue a very dangerous Correspondence.

But VVe will not dissemble with You how the States of *Gelderland* at *Arnheim* (as by your own Gazets is every where blown up and down) have discovered the Extremity of their Malice against Us, by clapping up meerly upon Our Account, to Our infinite Reproach and Infamy, several innocent Persons, and miserably Torturing

ring them, Murthering one of them, and then giving out againſt all Truth and Honeſty, that VVe had ſuborned them to betray the Cities of *Arnheim* and *Doesberg*, and given them Order to ſet them on Fire in three Places, which we cannot but Reſent as a deteſtable Falshood and Slander.

And hereupon We have thought good to Repreſent all this to Your High and Mighty Lordſhips, not only to Vindicate Our Selves to the World, but alſo to Convince You of the Reaſonableneſs of Our Requeſts and Demands. And We have the Charity to hope, that for the Reaſons aforeſaid, and to prevent all the Miſeries and Calamities which may follow, You will think fit to take a Speedy Care, that Immediately and without Delay, We may receive a full Satisfaction and Reſtitution, with a Setled Security for the Time to come. And that You will preſently ſend Us ſuch a ſufficient Declaration of Your Intention in it, as We may rely on. If You

shall not do this, Our Forces have Order to be in Readiness, and We must Protest that We are Innocent of all the Mischiefs which may happen. The Reproach of which must fall upon the Heads of those Men, who by their Oppressions, Violences, and Invasions gave the first Occasion of this Warr. And that Your High and Mighty Lordships may the less take it ill, or think it Strange We write unto You in this Manner, You may please to remember that Your Letter unto Us of the 29 of *April* of the last Year, was written in the same manner, to which You gave the Name and Title of a Defiance, *Manifesto* or Declaration of VVarr, which You did not only cause to be Published in Print, but also to be effectually put in Execution.

Howsoever VVe do Expressly Declare, That in all this VVe have no other Aime or Design than what VVe have already Owned, that is, To Attain by these Means a more Firm and Better settled Peace and Amity with

with the United Provinces of the *Netherlands*, not intending to give any Body Disturbance for Matters of Religion, or to take away the Liberty which any Persons injoy. Thus hoping You will make a quick Dispatch, and without loosing Time Return Us a Satisfactory Answer by this Trumpeter, whom VVe have appointed to receive it, VVe remain ready to do Your High and Mighty Lordships any Neighbourly Service.

Given at St. *Leutgersburg* the 14 of *September*, *Anno* 1665.

Your High and Mighty Lordships

True Friend and Neighbour

Ready to Serve You,

CHRISTOFER BERNARD.

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